

WILLIAM COOK

NX56978, PRIVATE WILLIAM COOK, Details, 2/10 Field Ambulance, being duly sworn, states:

I am NX56978, Private William Cook of Details, 2/10 Field Ambulance.

I was a member of the original Details of 2/10 Field Ambulance which was sent to RABOUL, sailing from here on the 12th March, 1941, and I remained with the Field Ambulance in NEW BRITAIN until the evacuation.

I was present with the Field Ambulance when orders were given on the 22nd. January, 1942, at about 1500 hours for the hospital to be evacuated from NAMANULA to the VUNAPOPE Mission site. I assisted during the movement of patients and equipment. I was in charge of the Isolation Dysentery ward at NAMANULA, and afterwards at VUNAPOPE.

On the morning of the 24th January, at about 0600 hours I received orders from Major Palmer, O.C. of the Ambulance, for the evacuation of the Ambulance personnel to MALABUNGA. It was understood that all sick and wounded patients were being left at VUNAPOPE, and, in order that they might be looked after, volunteers from the Ambulance personnel were called for to remain to look after the patients, and from those who volunteered, two were chosen - Private Max Langdon and Corporal L. Hudson. In addition to our own military patients who were being left behind, I know that the following civilian personnel also remained at VUNAPOPE when our party left, that is, two civilian medical assistants from the RAPENDIK Native Hospital two male members of the Public Health Department and seven civilian nurses from the RABOUL District, together with a few civilians whose names I do not recall.

At about 0700 hours a convoy of the Details of the 2/10 Field Ambulance left from VUNAPOPE, and the party proceeded towards MALABUNGA.

Just before we got to MALABUNGA, we met a party of troops with a patient who had broken leg. We took him on to MALABUNGA with us. At MALABUNGA, Major Palmer divided us into two parties. Five of the Details of the 2/10 Field Ambulance, two of the Dental Unit and one civilian stayed at MALABUNGA. The rest of the party proceeded towards the coast. I stayed with the first named party.

During the afternoon, two members of the Dental Unit and a civilian made off, leaving us, with the permission of Captain Robertson who was in charge of that party. About an hour later one of the Dental party returned. During the afternoon, Japanese planes flew very low overhead, and the same

the next morning, so Captain Robertson decided to push on. One of the 2/10 - the Dental Unit man who had returned - volunteered to stay behind with the patients. Captain Robertson, Robert Hennessey and Pearsall and myself then moved off towards the south coast at about midday on Saturday the 24th. We proceeded to LAHINGI MISSION where our party caught up with Major Palmer and the bulk of the details of the 2/10 Field Ambulance. There were also other troops in this body and, after we arrived, the total strength would be about 18. From here the party moved on under arrangements supervised by Major Palmer in parties of varying numbers, each party being separated some distance from the other. I was in one of the leading parties, and Major Palmer with a party brought up the rear to watch for stragglers and to generally supervise and control.

About the 29th my party arrived at ADLER BAY and we stayed there for three days.

The first party to leave ADLER BAY was Captain Robertson's comprising two of the 2/10, one man temporarily attached to the 2/10, with Captain Robertson. They left about the morning of the 31st. January. Another party of three left on the Saturday night, and six of us left on the Sunday morning, all making in the direction of WIDE BAY. Major Palmer with his party which consisted of a Sergeant and a Private went by another track right round ADLER BAY. He moved off on the Sunday morning and on Monday morning, 2nd. February, we caught up with the two men who were with Major Palmer, they having waited behind for us. That was about a day's journey from TOL.

The next day - the 2nd. February - we continued towards TOL. At this stage we saw the Japanese landing craft at about 0900 hours proceeding towards TOL, although we did not know that at the time. We then left a notice on a piece of paper on a bush on the track warning any troops following that the Japanese had been seen.

On Wednesday the 4th, when going along the track at about 0930 hours, we met Staff Sergeant Bower of the 2/22 Battalion. He informed us that the Japanese had left TOL, but not to move on until he made sure. He went on ahead - on reconnaissance. We waited just off the track, four of us having a game of cards and the other four cooking some food. Our first intimation that the Japs were there was when the four who were cooking ran past us, muttering "The Japs are on us." We were at the edge of the jungle. I myself ran into the jungle and hid. I saw my seven mates walk out with their hands up, so I went back with them. This was roughly about 1030 hours. We were taken to the main track under a party of Japanese in charge of whom was a Sergeant. He indicated by signs that he was a Sergeant

We were searched for firearms and were allowed to sit down awaiting the rest of the Japanese party. Small parties

of Japanese came up with us with other prisoners until there were 23 prisoners in all.

Our identification discs were taken. By an officer we were given a book in which to sign our names and numbers.

When the party was about to move off, another Australian soldier crawled up to us, showing signs of fatigue, and complaining of hunger. We were told to treat him, and two of our men were detailed to carry him. The rest of us carried ammunition and a few rifles which the Japanese had capture.

About a quarter of a mile along the track, the two who were carrying the patient were, by signs, told to leave him on the ground, and we were marched off, a Japanese soldier staying behind with the patient. Shortly after, the Japanese soldier caught up with us, and we saw no more of the patient.

Just before reaching TOL, a civilian European policeman from RABAUL and another soldier were added to our party, making it 25 all told. On arriving at TOL, the Japanese soldiers were allowed to ransack our packs and to search for anything which may have been of value to them. Rings and watches were taken from us.

We were told to put everything out of our pockets on to the ground, and our pay books were collected. They then tied our hands behind our backs with fishing cord, and we were tied together in parties of twos and threes. They then separated from us the European member of the police force. They then took off our tin hats, and as we were marched off, they were questioning the member of the police force. They marched us to a plantation about half a mile from TOL in the direction of RABAUL. We were, by signs, told to sit down on a slight rise on the track leading into the plantation, with our back towards the plantation. At this stage we protested against the treatment, as we were of the Red Cross, and each of us wore a Red Cross arm band. The officer-in-charge just ripped our arm bands off our sleeves and kept them in his hand.

They started to take the men down the track in parties, but the first man was taken down separately. Then we followed in groups of two or three. I was in the second last party consisting of three. There were two in the last party.

The officer, by signs, asked us would we sooner be bayoneted or shot. We asked to be shot. We were taken down the track. When we reached the bottom of the track, three other Japanese with fixed bayonets intercepted us and walked behind us. The first blow knocked the

They then stabbed us in the back with their bayonets. The first blow knocked the three of us to the ground. Our thumbs were tied behind our backs and native lap laps were used to connect us together through our arms. They stood above us and stabbed us several more times. I received five stabs. I pretended death and held my breath.

The Japanese then walked away. The soldier who was lying next to me groaned. One Japanese came back and stabbed him again. I could not hold my breath any longer, and when I breathed he heard it and stabbed me another six times. The last thrust went through my ear, face and into my mouth, severing an artery which caused the blood to gush out of my mouth. He then placed cocconut fronds and vines over the three of us. I lay there and heard the last two men being shot.

I lay there for approximately one hour, when I decided to try to escape. I untied the cloth which connected me with the other two and walked towards the sea, which was about 50 yards away. After a few steps, I collapsed. It seemed only a short time before I regained consciousness. I then tried to saw the bonds from my thumbs on the iron heel of my boot, but could not do so because my thumbs were swollen. After a short while, I managed to get my leg between my two hands and I chewed at the knot until it became undone. I then walked towards the beach. I made my way along the beach, walking as much as possible in the water to avoid leaving traces of blood and at the same time bathing my back in the salt water. Just at dusk I sighted the smoke of a camp fire in the jungle near the beach, and made towards it.

After about 10 hours - as far as I can gather - I rested as near as I could judge near to where the fire was and had a few hours sleep. When I awoke I found the path leading towards this camp, and I followed it and found a small party of soldiers camped there. Colonel Scanlan was in charge of this party. I told him what had happened, and he dressed two of my wounds, not having sufficient material to do the rest.

I was allowed to sleep for a few hours, and when I awoke I was given some food to eat and then sent from there along the track with a native to find another party. Before meeting up with anybody else, the native left me and I walked a short distance and went into the bush for a rest.

Shortly afterwards a party of three soldiers came along the track. I attracted their attention and after a short conversation we decided to climb the mountains so as to go around the Japanese at TOL. After a week spent trying to climb the mountains we finished up exactly where we started. Then a native told us the Japanese had left and offered to guid us to the next mission. We passed through TOL till we came to a big river and were taken across by canoe and landed on a small island. We

stayed there for the night and next morning were making arrangements with other natives who had come along in the meantime to make a raft and so to cross another river.

Just then, a Japanese cruiser was sighted coming into TOL, so we swam on to the mainland and went bush for a while. We met another party of soldiers and the four of us kept on. Eventually I met up with Major Palmer. That was about the end of February, and from then on I was with his party until the evacuation. We came out from the South Coast.

BY THE COURT: After shaming dead at TOL, on your escape did you see any dead bodies of other Australian soldiers?---Yes, I saw three. I did not see others on account of the parties being taken to separate parts of the plantation.

You do not know the names of any of these three?---No, I do not.

Was there anything, to your knowledge, done by our troops when taken prisoner to warrant this massacre?---Definitely not.

(sgd) NX56978
Pte. W. Cook
5/6/42.

Certified true copy

(sgd) T. F. Mornane Lieut.Col.
Australian Military Forces.

Doc 5311

證據書類第五三二號

WILLIAM COOK /
ウィリアム クック

「NX五六九七」 野戦病院小分遣隊所屬

兵「ウィリアム クック」正規 = 宣撫言ミク上陳述シマス

私「NX五六九七」野戦病院小分遣隊所屬兵「ウィリアム クック」
デアリマス

私「一九四一年昭和十六年三月十二日」此処ヨリ出航シ「RABUL」ニ送ラシク
野戦病院、基準小分遣隊、一員デアリ。撤退ニ到ル迄「NEW BRITAIN」
野戦病院ト共ニ留ミテ居リシマシ。

一九四一年昭和十六年一月二十二日午後三時頃病院ヲ「NAMANKLA」ヨリ
「VUNAPOPE」傳道館所在地ニ後退セシメヨト、命令亦下サシタ時
私野戦病院ニ居リシマシ。私患者達ヲ施設ヲ移動スル間ソノ午
傳ヒシニシタ。私「NAMANKLA」又後ニ「VUNAPOPE」赤痢隔離病
棟、受持デアリシマシ。

一月二十四日、朝六時頃私野戦病院、隊長「PALMER」少佐ヨリ
野戦病院所屬員「HALABUNGA」ニ後退セヨト、命令ヲ受取リ
シタ。

/ x x x /

「二十九日頃私隊「ADLER BA」等ニ着キ、ソコニ三日間滞在シマシ
タ。

/ x x x /

翌日即チ二月二日吾等「TOL」ニ向テ前進ヲ續行シマシ。

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其ノ折、午前九時頃我々ハ日本ノ上陸用舟艇カ「ト」ニ向テ進ニテ行
クヲ見マシタ。其ノ時ニハソレガ「ト」ニ行クノダトハ知りマセデシタ。
ソレテ吾々ハ後リウマル友軍部隊ニ既ニ日本軍カ見エタ「ト」ヲ警告
スルヲ路上ノ草叢ニ紙切ニ書イタ注意書ヲ残シテオキマシタ。
四日水曜、日午前九時半頃路上ヲ行進シテサタトキ、吾々ハ「^{POWER}」大隊
「^{POWER}」曹長ニ逢ヒマシタ。彼ハ吾々ニ日本軍ハ既ニ「ト」ヲ立タ
カ自今カソレヲ確メル迄進ニテハイケサイト知ラセテクレマシタ。彼ハ偵
察ノタメ先ニ行キマシタ。吾々ハ「^{POWER}」路ヲ外シテ待機シマシタ。
我々ハ中四人ハ「ト」ヲ「^{POWER}」ヤツテ遊ビ、他ノ四名ハナニカ食物ヲ料
理シテサマシタ。ソレテ料理ヲシテサタ四名、者ガ「日本兵ニ感付カレタ」ト
小声ニ叫ビテ停ヲ駈ケ抜ケタノデ、初メテ日本兵カ其處ニ居ルニハカ
附キマシタ。吾々ハ密林ノ端ニ居マシタ。私自身ハ密林ニ駛込ミ隠シマ
シタ。私ハ仲間七名カ手ヲ上げテ出テニク、ヲ見マシタ、テ引返シテ彼等ト一緒
ニテマシタ。コノトキハ大體午前十時三十分頃デアリマシタ。吾々ハ軍曹
ノ率サテ居ル日本軍ノ一隊ニ守ラレテ大通リニ連シテ行カレマシタ。彼カ
軍曹デアツクニハ階級章ヲ解リマシタ。
吾々ハ火器所有ノ有無、調べテ受ケテカス。日本軍部隊、残
ノ者ヲ待ツタメ坐ルコトヲ許サレマシタ。幾組、日本兵、小部隊
カ他、捕虜達ヲ連シテ吾々ニ追付キ、捕虜ハ全部デニ十三名トナリ
マシタ。
吾々ハ認識標ハ取ニゲラレマシタ。吾々ハ一人、將校カ「各々、名前
ヤ番号ヲ誌ス」タ一冊、手帳ヲ渡サレマシタ。
部隊カ將ニ出タセントスル時、又一人、^{AUSTRALIA}兵ガ吾々ニ
「^{POWER}」捕ツテ出リ着キ、イカニモ疲シタ様サデ空腹ヲ訴ヘマシタ。吾
々ハ彼ヲ看テタル様ニ云ハ、仲間二人ガ彼ヲ運ブ様ニ選バレマシタ。

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吾々、中、残り、者、日本兵が今捕つた彈藥ト二三挺、小銃ヲ運
ビマシタ。此、路、約四分、一哩程行ツタ頃、患者ヲ運ビデキタ二名、
者ハ手眞似テ病人ヲ其處ニオイテ行ケト云ハル。日本兵ガ一人病
人ト一緒ニ後残り吾々又行進サセラシマシタ。間モナク、日本兵ハ
吾々ニ追附キマシタ。病人、巻ハモヤ見エマセデシタ。
ト此ニ着クス。前、^{LABAKI}カラ来タヨーロッパ人、民間巡查一
名、及ビモラ一名、兵ガ吾々、隊ニ加ハリ既述、者全部ト二十五名ニナ
リマシタ。ト此ニ着クト、日本兵連ハ吾々、荷物ヲ引摺廻シテ、様
々モノヲナニデモ捜スコトヲ許サシマシタ。吾々ハ指環ヤ時計ヲ取リテ、
シマシタ。

吾々ハボケツトノモノヲ全部出シテ地面ニ置ク様ニ云ハル。吾々、給
料薄、集メラシマシタ。ツギニ彼等ハ、藥獲用、索デ吾々ヲ後手ニ
縛リ、我々ハ二人ト三人ツツ、幾ツカ、組ニ互ニ縛リ、合サシマシタ。ソレカラ
例、ヨーロッパ人、敬言察隊員ヲ吾々カラ別ニシテシマシタ。

次ニ彼等ハ吾々、錫製、帽子ヲ取リ上ゲ、又吾々カ行進サセラシメ、
彼等ハ敬言察隊員ヲ訊問ニテキマシタ。彼等ハ吾々ヲ^{LABAKI}、方向
ト此ヨリ半哩バカリアル農場迄行進サセマシタ。吾々ハ手眞似テ
農場ニ入ル路上、イウラカ坂ニナツタ處ニ農場ニ背ヲ向ケテ生ニ様ニ
云ハシマシタ。コトキ吾々ハ、彼等、待遇ニ對シ抗議ヲ申シマ
シタト云フ、ハ吾々ハ、赤十字、者デアリ、各々赤十字、腕章ヲ
附ケテキタカラデアリマス。隊長、將校ハ吾々、袖カ、腕章
ヲビタクリ、彼ノ手ニ收メテシマヒマシタ。

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彼等ハ吾々ヲ一組一組攻テ進下シ始マシタ。シカシ最初二人ハ別ニ進下シテ
マシタ。ソレヲ吾々ハ三人ガ三人ツヅク組、マンブロゾロハト云キマシタ。私ハ最後
カラ二番目、組テ、組ハ三人デシタ。且最後、組ハ三人デアリマシタ。

騎兵ハ手負似テ吾々ニ向テ銃剣ヲ突ササレルト射タレルトト云キ取
リ、訊マシタ。吾々ハ射殺サレル方ヲ願ミマシタ。吾々ハ進下シテ路下ツマ
シタ。吾々が路、倉底イ處ニ着イタヤ、着劍シテ銃ヲ荷ツタ他、三人
ノ日本兵ガ吾々ヲ止メ、ソレカラ後ニツイテ来マシタ。ソレカラ彼等ハ、銃
剣ヲ吾々ノ背中ニ突キマシタ。最初、一撃ヲ吾々三人ハ地ニ打テ倒サ
レシタ。吾々、拇指ハ後ニ縛ラレ、吾々ヲ一纏ニスルタ。腕ヲ通シテ地ニ
使ハレシタ。彼等ハ吾々ニ二乗リカガ子更ニ數回突刺シマシタ。私ハ五回突
カレマシタ。私ハ死ニ振テ息ヲコラシマシタ。

ソレカラ日本兵ハ行ツテミマシタ。私ハ隣ニ臥シマシタ。多ク唸リマシタ。
一人ノ日本兵ガ又マシテ来テ又一度彼ヲ突刺シマシタ。私ハ最早息ヲ止メマシ
タ。幸ニ、息ヲ止メタト云キ彼ハ、又六回私ヲ突刺シマシタ。最後ニ突刺
シタハ耳、顔ヲ貫キ、口ニ達シ、一本動脈ヲ切マシタ。私ノ口ヨリ血ガ流
レ出マシタ。ソレカラ彼ハ吾々三人ニ、柳ヲ、葉ヲ蔓ヲ覆セマシタ。

私ハ其處ニ横ハシマシタ。最後ニ三人ガ射タレルヲ聞キマシタ。
ホト時間程横ニテマシタ。ソレカラ逃ゲテ見ヨウト決心シマシタ。
私ハ他ニ三人ハ結合エテ、布ヲ解キ、約五十ヤード程離キ、井ル海ニ
入リマシタ。數歩歩キマシタ。氣ガ遠クマシタ。シカシ聞エテ、
氣ヲ取戻シマシタ。ソレカラ私ハ靴、鉄、鹽、ニテ西拇指ヲ縛リ、綱ヲ磨
リ切ニシマシタ。拇指ガ、手ニ平ク、テ出来セマシタ。

警ニクシテトヤラコシヤラ足ヲ兩手、間ニ入レ、信目ヲ嚙ミテ解キマシタ。
私ハソレカラ海岸ニ歩キテ行キマシタ。海岸ニ沿テ進ミ、血跡ヲ残サセ
テ出来ル方ニ水中ヲ歩ク程ニシ、同時ニ塩水ヲ背中ヲ浸シマシタ。

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彼等ハ吾々ヲ二組（組攻）進下シ始マシタ。シカシ最初一人ハ別ニ進ミ去リシ
コトヲ。ソレヲ吾々ハ三人ガ三ツ、組、マ、ン、グ、ロ、ン、ト、ニ、キ、マ、シ、タ。私ハ最後
カニ番目、組デ、ン、組ハ三人デシタ。且最後、組ハ二人デアルコトヲ。

將校ハ手眞似ニ吾々ニ向ニ銃剣ヲ突ササレルト射タレルトドヤガ良
カリ訊マシタ。吾々ハ射殺サレル方ヲ頼ミマシタ。吾々ハ進ミテ路下ニキ
マシタ。吾々が路（番）低イ處ニ着イタコトヲ。着剣シテ銃ヲ荷ツタ他、三人
ノ日本兵ガ吾々ヲ止ス。ソレカラ後ニツイテ来マシタ。ソレカラ彼等ハ、銃
剣ヲ吾々ノ背中ニ突キマシタ。最初、一撃ヲ吾々三人ハ地ニ打倒サ
レマシタ。吾々、拇指ハ後ヲ縛ラシ、吾々ヲ一纏ニスルヲ、腕ヲ通シテ地竹ガ
便ハレマシタ。彼等ハ吾々ニ二乗リカガテ更ニ數回突刺シマシタ。私ハ五回突
カレマシタ。私ハ死ニ振テ息ヲコラシマシタ。

ソレカラ日本兵ハ行テシメマシタ。私ハ隣ニ臥シキタヤガ唸リマシタ。
一人ノ日本兵ガ又ヤテ来テ我ノ一度彼ヲ突刺シマシタ。私ハ最早息ヲ止マシ
マシタ。自ラミタコトハ彼ハソレヲ聞テ又六回私ヲ突刺シマシタ。最後ニ突刺
シタハ耳、顔ヲ母貫キ、口ニ達シ、一本動脈ヲ切リマシタ。私ノ口ニ血ガ流
レ出シマシタ。ソレカラ彼ハ吾々三人ニ柳子、葉ヲ蔓ヲ覆セマシタ。

私ハ其處横ハシキタ。最後ニ人ガ射タレルヲ聞キマシタ。
ホノ時間程横ハシキタが、ソレカラ逃ゲテ見ヨウト決心シマシタ。
私ハ他三人ト結ビ合テテツテ布ヲ解キ、約五十ヤード程離キキル海ニ
テ歩キマシタ。數歩歩キマシタガ氣ガ遠テテマシタ。シカシ間モナク、
氣ヲ取戻シマシタ。ソレヲ私ハ靴、鉄、鹽、ニテ西拇指ヲ縛リ、綱ヲ磨
リ切ニツトマシタガ、拇指ガツクニテ平タテ出来セマシタ。

暫クシテドヤラコシヤ足ヲ兩手、間ニ入レ、結目ヲ嚙ミテ解キマシタ。
私ハソレカラ海岸ニ歩キテ行キマシタ。海岸ニ沿テテ進ミ、血跡ヲ残サセ
テ出来ルガ水ニテ歩ク程ニ、同時ニ塩水ニテ海中ニ浸シマシタ。

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